

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The continued rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Nakamura et al. '031 is again respectfully traversed.

As noted in applicant's earlier remarks in more detail, Nakamura deals only with the updating of routing tables and does not relate to the handling of TCP packets within a switch after switch routing table entries have been established to set up a messaging connection and during ongoing use of such established connection. By contrast, the applicant's claimed invention deals with a handling of data packets and control packets which control the data packets after the switch routing table entries have already been established, etc.

The Examiner's "response to arguments" comments are appreciated because it reveals the Examiner's apparent concern that the claims could have been mis-interpreted in a broader context so as to refer to the setting up of the switch routing table entries, etc. (e.g., because some or all of those control packets also have a flag other than PSH set).

Accordingly, the claims have been amended above so as to more explicitly avoid any such mis-interpretation. Properly interpreted, Nakamura is irrelevant to the claimed invention.

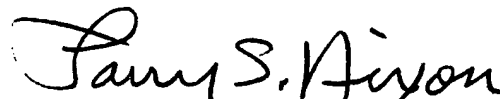
HUGHES et al
Appl. No. 09/824,241
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In light of the above amendment, it is hoped that the Examiner will agree and issue a formal Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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